

DAVID AND MARY ANN McDONALD FISHER

David Fisher and his bride, Mary Ann McDonald, were young folk among the



early settlers of Wasatch County. David was born in Johnstone, Scotland, September 23, 1852, son of David Fisher Sr. and Martha McKay. He arrived in Salt Lake City on his eighth birthday in the Stoddard handcart company, with his parents, his sister Martha, and brothers, Andrew and Joseph.

His grandparents, Joseph and Martha Blair McKay, had previously arrived in Zion and were on hand to welcome their daughter Martha and her family, and to help them settle in the Tenth Ward of Salt Lake City, where they remained until the desire to obtain farming land for their growing sons brought them to Wasatch County. David Fisher Sr. and David Jr. took out homestead rights to adjoining tracts of land near the mouth of Daniel's Canyon. To obtain cash for developments, the family returned to Salt Lake City, in order that the father and oldest son might work on the Union Pacific Railroad. Near Devils Gate in Weber Canyon, on August 11, 1868, the father was killed in a landslide. Thus, at 16 years of age, it was David Jr.'s lot to return his father's body for burial and to assume what he could of the family burdens.

The family returned to their homestead lands in Daniels Creek, and young David went to work for a prosperous farmer, John McDonald. There was more than food and raiment in this job. Here he met Mary Ann, the vivacious daughter of John and Lucinda Cole McDonald, who was born November 17, 1857, in Springville, Utah, and had come to Heber Valley with her parents in March, 1860.

They were married October 19, 1874, in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. Mary Ann wrote in her autobiography: "This was a happy union—I think because we were penniless to start with."

Preparations for their first home, a one-room loghouse in the northeast part of Heber City, had been made during the summer. With money earned hauling wood to Salt Lake City, David purchased a bed, a small stove, three chairs, three plates, three cups and saucers, a dishpan, two flat-irons, and a tub and board. On another trip he bought a bolt of factory, from which Mary Ann made two sheets, two pairs of pillow cases, and a tick for straw. Her mother gave them two pillows and two quilts. Mary Ann wrote, "We thought we were really rich."

Later they decided that David would go to the new-found Ontario mine in Park City to work for needed cash, and Mary Ann would stay on at the homestead in Daniels Creek with their tiny daughter, Lucinda. Their second child, John, was born there.

When the homesteading was finished they established a home in Ontario Canyon, where David had become outside foreman of the Ontario mine. They remained there until 1893, when they brought their family back to Heber City and the new brick home they had erected. It stands at the corner of 124 East Fourth South St.

Returns from the mining claims David acquired made their declining years financially comfortable. From 1905 to 1913 he served as councilman on the Heber City town board, during which time the Heber City light and power plant was built. He died in March, 1915. Widowed for 20 years, Mary Ann maintained her courage and her humor. She died March 7, 1935.

The family of David and Mary Ann McDonald Fisher included Martha Lucinda, born September 19, 1875, who married William Trevithick; John David, born October 1, 1877, who married Maude Van Waggoner; James William, born December 7, 1880; George Andrew, born July 4, 1883, who married Annie McMillan; Florence, born October 10, 1886, who married A. Pratt Hickman; Donald Gail, born March 5, 1891, who married Luvernia Hards; Ila May, born December 30, 1893, who married Russell Lowell Maughan, and Craig Chambers, born August 7, 1896, and married Mabel Alder. 355